

NORMAN SISISKY POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2910) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2910

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NORMAN SISISKY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Norman Sisisky Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 2910.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2910. I commend my good friend and fellow Virginian, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), for introducing this measure to honor his distinguished predecessor, the late Congressman Norman Sisisky.

H.R. 2910 honors Norman Sisisky's service to his district, his State and his country by designating the post office located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building." This bill has the strong support of all Members of the Virginia delegation.

Although born in Baltimore, Maryland, Norman Sisisky grew up in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1949. Following a brief stint in the Navy, he became president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg, Virginia. Under his leadership, that company became one of the largest soft drink bottling operations in the South.

From 1973 to 1982, Norman served in the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he served until

his untimely death in March of this year. During his 18 years on Capitol Hill, Norman Sisisky compiled a moderate voting record. In fact, he was one of the first members of the conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

He often worked across the aisle to achieve what he believed best for the American people. Few were more effective, especially in matters of national defense. He was the second ranking Democrat on the Committee on Armed Services and was widely praised for his devotion to military and defense issues.

Among the other numerous highlights of his distinguished career was the passage of a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Sisisky left many friends and admirers in this House. He has been rightly remembered as a bridge between the parties and for his sense of humor. I urge all Member to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am very happy to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2910, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES). It has met the committee co-sponsorship requirement and is supported by the entire Virginia Congressional delegation.

Norman grew up in Richmond, Virginia, served honorably in the Navy during World War II. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University, became a successful businessman as president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg where he lead what was a small business to one of the largest and most profitable in the South.

Norm Sisisky served in Virginia's General Assembly representing Petersburg, Virginia. After serving five terms in the assembly, he was elected to U.S. Congress where he represented Virginia's Fourth Congressional District until his untimely death in March of this year.

Norman Sisisky served as a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement. He was always a strong defender and advocate of the armed services, and I know he will be particularly missed in that area. He already has been.

He was a member of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness and the Panel on Military Morale, Welfare and Recreation. He knew the importance of maintaining a strong military. He will always be remembered for standing behind our military families and veterans. He was also one of the most effective advocates in Congress for a strong Navy, particularly, and its ship building program at Newport News. Throughout his career in public service, he helped in a substantial way in making our military second to none.

Norm Sisisky was a hard-working colleague and a dedicated public servant. I think we should also say he was, too, a very witty, urbane and engaging friend to so many of us. And in addition to his public service, we miss his friendship. He leaves a great legacy to the people of Virginia and to our entire Nation.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), and all of the Virginia Congressional Delegation. And it is not just confined to Virginia. We have the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) speaking. It should be said that Norm was one of the best-liked Members of this body. I urge swift passage of this bill, and I trust it will be unanimous. This is one small way of remembering Norm Sisisky.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our former colleagues, Norman Sisisky, the late Congressman from the Fourth District of Virginia.

Congressman Sisisky passed away earlier this year having lived a rich life of public service and loving commitment to his family. He served his Nation during World War II as a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He went on to serve Virginia in the House of Delegates for 8 years. During his tenure there, his dedication to improving the lives of children earned him the Outstanding Service to Children in Virginia Award in 1978. He served the citizens of both the Commonwealth and the Nation by representing the people of Virginia's Fourth District for more than 18 years in the United States Congress.

Norman Sisisky was well respected by Members from both sides of the aisle, gaining a reputation as a personable man with a keen interest in and knowledge of national security issues. In fact, he is best remembered for his service on the Committee on Armed Services where he helped to shepherd through years of bipartisan legislation to improve the lives of men and women who wear the uniform that he once wore.

Norman Sisisky was a life-long Virginian, born in Richmond and later settling nearby in Petersburg.

He attended college at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he earned a degree in business administration. He built an outstanding career in soft drink bottling as president and owner of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Petersburg and chairman of

the board of the National Soft Drink Association.

Norman and his wife, Rhoda, had four sons and later seven grandchildren. They are a living and gracious legacy to Norman's life, just as the work he did here is a legacy to his career in public service.

Today, we join together to recognize those legacies by dedicating the facility of the United States postal service at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, as the Norman Sisisky Post Office Building. Though he spent much time in Washington and traveling the fourth district to represent his constituents, his home was in Petersburg; and it is fitting that this building bear his name.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader; and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for helping to bring this tribute to the floor so quickly; and I would like to thank my colleagues, particularly in the Virginia delegation, for joining me as cosponsors of this resolution and for speaking on its behalf on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and honor the memory of the late Congressman Norman Sisisky.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may want to consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), Norman's next door neighbor.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

It is with great pleasure that I rise in support of H.R. 2910, to designate a post office in honor of my friend and distinguished colleague, the late Norman Sisisky.

President John F. Kennedy once said: "A Nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." While the news of Norman's death was met by great sadness by all of those who knew him, the legacy of his life and his accomplishments are to be acknowledged, revered and celebrated.

I knew Norman for almost 25 years. For 5 of those years, we served together in the Virginia House of Delegates. We served together here in the House of Representatives for over 8 years. During that time, I had the honor to represent a district adjacent to his in southeast Virginia. The proximity of our districts allowed us to work side by side on many issues; and as a result, we became close, and our staffs in Washington and our district offices also became close associates.

The Fourth Congressional District, all of Virginia, the entire Nation, were all well served by Norman's leadership on the House Committee on Armed Services. He was the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Military Pro-

tection and also served as a member of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness and Subcommittee on Morale, Welfare and Recreation. He worked diligently to ensure that our Nation's military was second to none.

Due to his efforts, Newport News Shipbuilding has remained a world leader; and we have been able to continue to excel in nuclear aircraft carrier and submarine construction.

When Virginia's military facilities came under threat of being closed during the base closings of the 1990s, Congressman Sisisky successfully protected Fort Lee, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and other bases in Virginia that have been critical to the readiness of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, fitting that a private man that worked so tirelessly behind the scenes, without the need for fanfare and accolades, should now be honored today as the Norman Sisisky Post Office serves the public. We will be reminded of his driving spirit and tireless commitment to public service.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. With this designation of a post office in honor of Norman Sisisky, we will say a job well done.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for bringing this legislation to the floor of the House.

It is very appropriate that we honor Congressman Norman Sisisky, who will always be remembered as a true gentleman, a dedicated public servant. He was a good person. He was a good father. He was a good husband, and in the delegation we could not have been closer.

I see the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN); and I would ask the gentleman if he remembers at our delegation lunches, it was Norman that would always make us laugh, that would always have that witty comment and somebody who could reach across the aisle in a way that really very few Members can.

His public service career began when he was elected, as was said, a member of the House of Delegates in 1973 representing Petersburg. He served for five terms in the Virginia General Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1982, and it was when I first met him.

Norman, like another of our late Virginia colleagues, Herb Bateman, was a senior member on the House Committee on Armed Services. In fact, he and Bateman, Sisisky and Bateman, worked hand in glove on so many issues with regard to their portion of the State and so many issues with regard to the national defense. From their vantage point, they both were

protectors of our national security. Norman was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and also served on the Subcommittee on Military Readiness and the Panel on Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. The American men and women in the military had no finer friend than Norman Sisisky. No matter what their rank, from the lowest rank to the highest rank, Norman was their friend.

Also, Norman was instrumental in working to get the funding to build the newest aircraft carrier, U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*, which was recently christened.

He worked tirelessly as an advocate for production of shipbuilding to strengthen our national defense, and it is appropriate that we honor his dedication to improving our defense and intelligence resources, especially in light of recent events with regard to what is taking place in the country.

This Congress is honoring a very faithful servant and a wonderful man. Our lives have been forever enriched by having Norman Sisisky as our friend and colleague. Norman lived his life to the fullest. He had a great time, great sense of humor. He was hardworking and friendly and was a Member who truly worked in a bipartisan way by reaching across the aisle to work in the best interests of America. It was a privilege to work with Norman for 18 years and to work with him in the Virginia delegation on issues of importance, not only to the State of Virginia but to the Nation.

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Norm Sisisky's commitment and devotion to public service is deserving of recognition and it is appropriate that the postal building at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, be renamed in his honor.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for bringing this to the floor, and let Norman know, as he is I am sure watching somewhere, that we do miss him very, very much.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues on the Government Reform Committee in bringing this legislation to the floor to designate a U.S. postal building in Petersburg, Virginia, to honor the late Congressman Norman Sisisky, who served Virginia's Fourth Congressional district for nine terms.

It is appropriate that we honor Congressman Sisisky, who will always be remembered as a true gentleman and dedicated public servant.

Norman Sisisky was born June 9, 1927, and graduated from John Marshall High in Richmond, Virginia. He joined the Navy after high school and served through World War II until 1946. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1949 with a degree in business administration.

Norm's work as a public official was undoubtedly strengthened by his success in the private sector. After graduating he transformed a small Pepsi bottling company in Petersburg, Virginia, into a highly successful distributor of soft drinks throughout Southside Virginia.

His public service career began when he was elected as delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1973 representing Petersburg. He served five terms in the Virginia General Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1982.

Norman, like another of our late Virginia colleagues, Herb Bateman, was a senior member on the House Armed Services Committee and from that vantage point was a protector of our national security. He was the ranking member of the subcommittee on military procurement, and also served on the subcommittee on military readiness and the panel on morale, welfare, and recreation.

Before his untimely passing this past March, he had been appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Norman was also a member of the "Blue Dog" coalition in the 104th through the 107th Congresses and led bipartisan efforts through that work. Norman was instrumental in working to get funding to build the newest aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan*, which was recently christened.

He worked tirelessly as an advocate for production of shipbuilding and strengthening our national defense. It is appropriate that we honor his dedication to improving our defense and intelligence resources, especially in light of recent events and our new attention to these priorities.

He presented with pride Virginia's Fourth Congressional District in the southeastern corner of the Commonwealth, the home of the First Permanent English Settlement in North America, and today the home of one of the largest concentrations of military power in the world.

This Congress is honoring a faithful servant and wonderful man, and our lives are forever enriched for having had Norman Sisisky as our friend and colleague. Norman lived his life to the fullest. He was hard-working and friendly and he was a member who truly worked in a bipartisan way. He reached across the aisle to work for the best interests of America. It was a privilege to serve with him the over 18 years he was in Congress and to work with him in the Virginia delegation on issues of importance to our state and union.

Congressman Sisisky's commitment and devotion to public service is deserving of recognition, and it is appropriate that the postal building at 131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, be renamed in his honor. I urge our colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to honor his former member for his dedicated public service.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the honorable and very distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was elected to the House in 1981 in a special election. I came here in early June, so I had been here some 18 months before Norm Sisisky was sworn in in January of 1983 to the House of Representatives. But because Virginia and Maryland are members of the same organizational region for our caucus, and because Norm and I had a number of interests in common, we became very good friends. I am pleased, therefore, to rise on behalf of this legislation.

This legislation, of course, will pass unanimously, as it should. It is appro-

priate that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) introduced this resolution to honor his predecessor. They come from different parties, but they come from the same State, the same region, and the same district, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) knows full well of the affection and respect with which Mr. Sisisky was held in his district.

Norm Sisisky, some of my colleagues may not know, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1927. His parents had come from Lithuania; emigrated to this country. When Norm was a very young boy, his family moved to Virginia. He grew up in Richmond and, after he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the Navy for the final years of World War II. He was very young. He enlisted at almost his first opportunity, as soon as he graduated from high school.

After completing his naval service, Norm graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University. History would prove that his service to the Navy in World War II did not end until his death, for the Navy had no better friend than Norm Sisisky. Indeed, the Armed Services of America, the defense of our Nation, the defense of freedom throughout this world had no better friend nor more tenacious supporter than Norm Sisisky.

When he graduated from college and completed his naval service, he entered into the soft drink bottling distribution business. He bought a small distribution plant that he then built into a giant distribution plant and was so respected by his colleagues that he became the President of the National Soft Drink Association.

Norm Sisisky was a man of faith, active in his synagogue and in many Jewish organizations. Indeed, he served as president of his congregation. Norm and his wife, the former Rhoda Brown, had four sons, Mark, Terry, Richard and Stuart, and seven grandchildren. Norm and Rhoda were and are extraordinarily proud of those four sons and those seven grandchildren, and I know they will be proud to point to this post office that will be named for Norm Sisisky.

By the way, let me, as an aside, make a suggestion. The first bill that I passed as a Member of this House was to name the District Heights Post Office for E. Michael Roll, who had been the mayor of the town in which I lived for over 20 years. And I can remember as a young kid, the town was small enough that the mayor would get on you if you were not riding your bike in the proper place or he saw you throw an ice cream wrapper on the street or something of that nature. Mr. Roll had recently died, and I was so pleased to introduce a bill to honor him by naming the post office after him.

When they went out to the District Heights Post Office, and this is what I want my Virginia friends to hear, they were going to take off the words "United States Post Office." The post

office had proposed putting E. Michael Roll's name in place of United States. I told them that E. Michael Roll would roll over in his grave if he knew his name was replacing the name of the country that he loved so deeply.

So I would suggest that perhaps rather than name this post office the Norm Sisisky Post Office Building, that we name it the Norm Sisisky United States Post Office as the official name of the place.

But to get back to Norm Sisisky, although we are talking about an appropriate act which need not be debated, we are talking about an individual whom this body is poorer for having lost. Born on June 9, 1927, he died on March 29 of this year. He died too soon. It could be said, of course, that perhaps all of us die too soon, but we particularly miss Norm Sisisky who was an expert on not only national defense but on national intelligence. He served on our Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

He was a quiet man, not bombastic, not rhetorical, not subject to self-aggrandizement or self-promotion. He was a man of substance. He was a man of commitment. He was a man of great intellect. He was a man of great energy. And he worked extraordinarily hard to make sure that America was strong, that we tended to our military, and that we made sure our intelligence was the best that it could be. How deeply in this time of trouble that confronts America today do we miss Norm Sisisky.

I am proud to rise on behalf of this legislation because, as was quoted earlier in talking about Ben Franklin and quoting John Kennedy, a nation is known by the men and women that it honors. It is absolutely appropriate that we honor Norm Sisisky; that we lament his loss, but glory in the service that he gave to this institution and to this country that he loved.

I ask all of us, as we vote on this legislation later today, to remember that contribution and perhaps to once again send a note or make a call to Rhoda and tell her we share her loss, not as poignantly, not as personally, but as his colleagues we share her loss, the loss of her sons, the loss of the grandchildren, and the loss of the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCHROCK).

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and it is my pleasure to rise today in support of H.R. 2910, being brought to us by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), which will honor our good friend Congressman Norm Sisisky.

The location of the post office in Petersburg, Virginia, bearing Norm's name is quite fitting. Norm represented the people of Petersburg for almost 28 years, as a member of the Virginia General Assembly for 10 years,

and as a member of this body representing Virginia's Fourth Congressional District from 1983 until earlier this year.

Congressman Sisisky served America in World War II and brought this experience to Congress. Norm became a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services where he became a champion of our military and veterans issues. Norm was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and also served on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Panel. He took the lead in protecting Virginia's naval and military facilities and was an ardent defender of our national defense, but worked at the same time to ensure that military spending decisions strike the proper balance between strategic necessity and fiscal prudence.

His record of distinguished service to our country and to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia demonstrates to us all his commitment to the values and principles of freedom and public service. This facility we are naming today will remind us of his dedication to our country and to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his very strong support for H.R. 2910, the Norman Sisisky Post Office Building Designation Act of 2001, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3131 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building."

This Member would like to thank the main sponsor of H.R. 2910, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Rep. RANDY FORBES]; the rest of the Virginia congressional delegation; the Chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. DAN BURTON]; and the Ranking Member of the Committee, the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. HENRY WAXMAN] for their instrumental role in bringing H.R. 2910 to the House Floor.

Mr. Speaker, the late Congressman Sisisky was in many ways bigger than life—he lived life to the fullest, worked as hard as any Member in this body, and always enjoyed his family and friends. We can all take great pride in the kind of person Norm was, and in his many important contributions to not only the State of Virginia, but also the United States as a whole. As many of you probably know, this Member traveled with Congressman Sisisky frequently on NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) matters and to the annual Munich Conference on Security Policy (previously known as the Munich Wehrkunde Conference). In fact, Norm Sisisky participated in the Munich Conference on Security Policy longer than any sitting Member of the House and served as this Member's Democrat co-leader of the House delegation to this conference in February of this year.

This Member can still recall Norm's remarks during a NATO PA meeting where a discussion of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), European burden sharing and the need for Europe to meet its own NATO military commitments brought Norm to his feet with the simple words of "Show me the

money." He went on to explain that while he was supportive of ESDP, his support was conditional on the need for our European NATO allies to increase their own defense budgets to meet not only ESDP requirements, but more importantly their NATO requirements. The House NATO PA delegation was certainly proud of Norm Sisisky's blunt and forceful remarks, as Norm Sisisky wasn't one for beating around the bush nor for talking just to talk—when Norm spoke we all listened.

This was just one of the many examples of Norm Sisisky's keen knowledge of national defense matters and his forceful personality. This Member had great respect and appreciation for him as a person and as a congressional colleague. He was one of this Member's favorite people and we all miss him greatly! Therefore, this Member supports the naming of the Post Office Building in Petersburg, Virginia, the "Norman Sisisky Post Office Building". It certainly is a honor well-deserved which this Member strongly urges his colleagues to support.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from Virginia, Norm Sisisky, who served this body with dignity, honor and extreme dedication since 1983.

Norm was a true gentleman and a great patriot. I will never forget his kind and valuable tutelage when I first came to Congress, nor will I forget how he demonstrated to all of us the importance of caring more about doing good than getting credit. He certainly earned his reputation as a hard worker and skilled negotiator.

The son of Lithuanian immigrants, Norm was born in Baltimore. The family moved during the Depression to Richmond, Virginia where he grew up. Upon graduating from John Marshall High School, he enlisted in the Navy during World War II, serving through the end of 1946. Norm described himself as a self-made businessman, turning a local soft-drink company into one of the most successful Pepsi-Cola distributorships in the country at the time.

During his ten years in Congress, Norm secured committee assignments that paid great dividends to the residents and businesses in his district. He played a leading role in reforming the Defense Department's financial management system and worked tirelessly to preserve the nuclear shipbuilding industrial base so vital to employment rates in the Hampton Roads area. His was the proper and responsible balance: Protect Virginia's military facilities, but also make sure that military spending decisions are fiscally prudent and fair to taxpayers nationwide. He worked tirelessly in the Congress to improve procurement practices and streamline government to make it more effective and efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to mourn the loss of Norm Sisisky as a friend and a colleague. Norm lived his life with exuberance and passion for serving his beloved Virginia. He was a true leader on behalf of all Virginians and Americans, and as a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, he worked across partisan divides, searching for the common good. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation, which will ensure that Norm Sisisky's contributions to his community will be remembered for generations to come.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2910, the Norman Sisisky

Post Office Building Designation Act. I am honored today to pay tribute to Norman Sisisky, who was a colleague and familiar figure in Virginia politics for many years. It is fitting and proper that we should honor Norman today on the floor of this House where he acted so honorably as a public servant since he was elected to Congress in 1982 until his death earlier this year.

Norman Sisisky spent a lifetime serving Virginia and the United States, and we are all deeply indebted to this distinguished Virginia gentleman. Norman first displayed his love for this country when he enlisted in the Navy as a young man during World War II. His time in the Navy, though short, left a lasting impression and he never forgot that we must diligently tend to the needs of the men and women serving in the military.

At the conclusion of the war, he became a successful businessman and well known throughout the business community for transforming a small bottling company into a highly successful soft drink distributor. His business background and creative thinking proved invaluable when he later decided to enter elective politics. Norman served in the Virginia General Assembly for several years before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1982. Here in Washington, Norman was known as a staunch defender of our national security and worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who serve our nation in the military.

Norman was particularly effective in building coalitions in support for key programs and reaching across the aisle on matters of importance to Virginians. From ensuring adequate funding for aircraft carriers and submarines to modernizing our weapons systems, he was an ardent voice on the Armed Services Committee and an ally of every person who wears the uniform of the United States.

In his District, and throughout Virginia, his reputation as an outstanding Member of Congress was unparalleled. His legacy of constituent service, consensus building and selfless service is a model for all Members of Congress.

The people of the Fourth District, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America have truly benefited from his dedicated service and at this time of national crisis his military mind and Congressional experience are sorely missed. Norman was successful in every aspect of his life and we rightly dedicate this post office in his memory today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2910.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

USE OF TRUST LAND AND RESOURCES OF CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 483) regarding the use of the trust land and resources of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 483

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR 99-YEAR LEASES.

The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended—

(1) by inserting "the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon," after "Spanish Grant"); and

(2) by inserting "lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon" before "lands held in trust for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma".

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTAIN TRUST LANDS AND RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT.—The use of tribal lands, resources, and other assets described in the document entitled "Long-Term Global Settlement and Compensation Agreement", dated April 12, 2000 (hereafter referred to as the "GSA"), entered into by the Department of the Interior, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (in this section referred to as the "Tribes"), and the Portland General Electric Company, and in the Included Agreements, as attached to the GSA on April 12, 2000, and delivered to the Department of the Interior on that date, is approved and ratified. The authorization, execution, and delivery of the GSA is approved. In this section, the GSA and the Included Agreements are collectively referred to as the "Agreement". Any provision of Federal law which applies to tribal land, resources, or other assets (including proceeds derived therefrom) as a consequence of the Tribes' status as a federally recognized Indian tribe shall not—

(1) render the Agreement unenforceable or void against the parties; or

(2) prevent or restrict the Tribes from pledging, encumbering, or using funds or other assets that may be paid to or received by or on behalf of the Tribes in connection with the Agreement.

(b) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress hereby deems that the Secretary of the Interior had and has the authority—

(A) to approve the Agreement; and

(B) to implement the provisions of the Agreement under which the Secretary has obligations as a party thereto.

(2) OTHER AGREEMENTS.—Any agreement approved by the Secretary prior to or after

the date of the enactment of this Act under the authority used to approve the Agreement shall not require Congressional approval or ratification to be valid and binding on the parties thereto.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) SCOPE OF SECTION.—This section shall be construed as addressing only—

(A) the validity and enforceability of the Agreement with respect to provisions of Federal law referred to in section 2(a) of this Act; and

(B) approval for provisions of the Agreement and actions that are necessary to implement provisions of the Agreement that the parties may be required to obtain under Federal laws referred to in section 2(a) of this Act.

(2) AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to imply that the Secretary of the Interior did not have the authority under Federal law as in effect immediately before the enactment of this Act to approve the use of tribal lands, resources, or other assets in the manner described in the Agreement or in the implementation thereof.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect as of April 12, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on April 12 of 2000, the Warm Springs Tribe, Portland General Electric Company, and the Department of the Interior as the Tribe's trustee entered into an agreement for the Tribe to buy one-third or more of the 440-megawatt Pelton Hydroelectric Project on Oregon's Deschutes River. About one-third of that project is on the Warm Springs Tribal trust land.

The Tribe plans to use bonds to finance the \$30 million initial one-third acquisition of the project. A Federal law requires that any encumbrance of Indian trust resources be approved by the Interior Secretary. Interior asserts its current authorities are sufficient to authorize that approval for the Warm Springs trust resources. However, bond counsel asserts current authority is not express enough to allow for an unqualified opinion needed to issue those bonds. The Tribe and PGE also believe more express authority will help secure their agreement.

H.R. 483 addresses this situation by providing express approval specifically for the Pelton agreement so the bonds can be issued and the agreement is more secure. At the same time, it provides that this single case instance of approval is not to diminish Interior's existing authority to approve similar agreements.

The bill also authorizes Warm Springs trust land leases of up to 99 years at the Secretary's discretion.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House can unanimously support this piece of legislation. It is cosponsored by the entire Oregon delegation, and it will provide a needed economic development for the Warm Springs Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will permit the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to enter into various leases concerning their trust lands for up to 99 years.

Over the years, and at the specific request of the affected Indian tribe, we have passed numerous similar bills in order to give Indian tribes more flexibility to develop trust lands for the benefit of their members. What is different about this bill, however, is that we are also giving Congressional approval to a settlement and business agreement entered into among the Tribe, the Department of the Interior, and the Portland General Electric Company. The agreement benefits all parties and will help bring needed economic development to the reservation.

Similar agreements between Indian tribes and private companies occur upon the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. While I support the passage of this bill today, it is important to stress that in doing so we are not questioning the Secretary's authority over such matters nor the validity of agreements bearing her approval.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 483.

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Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague from eastern Oregon in support of this legislation, and I am pleased to cosponsor it along with the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, we have a special obligation as Members of this assembly to be sensitive to the needs of Native Americans. Sadly, the history of the United States brings no great credit to the Government or this body, and there have been many lost opportunities. I rise in support of H.R. 483 because it is one way to seize an opportunity and do the right thing.

H.R. 483 gives the Warm Springs Tribe the same control over their sovereign lands that other governments already enjoy. This act will allow the Warm Springs Tribal Government to lease its own land in the same manner that the Cherokee Nation and State and local jurisdictions have for years.

Certainly the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon have shown that they have earned this right. They are located on the largest land holding in our State. They have a long history of excellent official relationships with State and Federal authorities in Oregon. They operate